

Message Text

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70

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 OES-03 PC-01 USIA-06 IO-10 INR-05

DODE-00 AGR-05 INT-05 COME-00 SWF-01 EB-07 EUR-12

/119 W

----- 079210

R 161304Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8630

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ROME

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AFDROUGHT

FROM KELLY

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: USE OF COTONOU PORT FOR 1975 DONATED GRAIN SHIPMENTS
FOR THE SAHEL

REF: NIAMEY 4279

1. WOULD APPEAR THAT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN
THIS YEAR TO USE OF COTONOU PORT FOR SHIPMENT OF DONOR GRAINS
TO GAO SHOULD REQUIREMENTS FOR FURTHER IMPORTS DEVELOP EASTERN
AREA OF MALI'S VI REGION. SOME FACTORS WHICH SUGGEST FULLER
USE OF COTONOU ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A) REPORTS TO DATE SUGGEST THAT NIGER'S NEED FOR 1975
DONATED GRAINS WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY DIMINISHED, THUS PERMITTING
FULLER UTILIZATION OF COTONOU-PARAKOU RAIL LINE FOR GAO DESTINED
RAINS DURING SECOND QUARTER 1975.

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B) MOST DIRECT (1,500 KMS) AND LEAST EXPENSIVE (DOLS 120/T)
LAND-ROUTE BETWEEN COAST AND GAO IS COTONOU/NIAMEY/GAO AXIS WITH AVERAGE TRANSPORT TIMES BY RAIL/ROAD OF SIX DAYS.

C) FOUR BERTHING FACILITIES AT COTONOU PORT ARE SUFFICIENT TO HANDLE NORMAL DOCKING REQUIREMENTS WITH DISPATCH. (DEL SOL UNLOADED 800 TONS OF US SORGHUM DURING 24 HOUR PERIOD LAST WEEK.) RECENT DAMAGE BY WIND-BLOWN FREIGHTER TO ONE BERTH WILL NOT SIGNIFICANTLY CUT INTO STOCK-HANDLING CAPACITY ACCORDING TO US EXPERT CURRENTLY IN COTONOU SURVEYING EXTENT OF DAMAGES.

D) COVERED STORAGE CAPACITY AT PORT IS IMPRESSIVE FOR SIZE OF PORT INSTALLATION. WHILE 6,000 MT WAREHOUSE IS PRESENTLY RESERVED FOR GRAIN SHIPMENTS, PORT AUTHORITIES INDICATE THAT 14,000 MT OF COVERED STORAGE SPACE FOR GRAIN CAN BE ASSURED IF NEED DEVELOPS.

E) CONSTRUCTION HAS BEGUN ON A SILO STORAGE FACILITY (800 MT) WHICH ALONG WITH SUCTION CONVEYORS AND FOUR BAGGING MACHINES WILL GIVE A PORT BAGGING CAPABILITY OF 100 MT PER HOUR. WFP REPRESENTATIVE IN COTONOU BELIEVES THIS FACILITY COULD BECOME OPERATIONAL DURING MARCH 1975.

2. TWO FACTORS COULD POSSIBLY DIMINISH USEFULNESS OF COTONOU PORT VIS-A-VIS GAO-BOUND COMMODITIES:

A) INCREASED USE OF COTONOU PORT FOR SUPPLIES DESTINED FOR WESTERN NIGERIA. PORT OF APAPA IS JAMMED AS A CONSEQUENCE OF RISE IN PRICE OF PETROL AND BOOMING NIGERIA ECONOMY. DURING A RECENT TRIP TO NIGERIA, WFP REP COTONOU COUNTED FORTY-FOUR SHIPS WAITING OFF-SHORE FOR A BERTH AT APAPA. HE BELIEVES THERE WILL BE AN INCREASED SHIFTING OF APAPA-DESTINED CARGO-LOADS TO COTONOU DURING UP-COMING MONTHS.

B) NON-REPLACEMENT OF WORN OUT HANDLING AND LIFTING EQUIPMENT AT PORT. EQUIPMENT WAS HEAVILY USED DURING APRIL-AUGUST PUSH AND REPLACEMENTS IN SEVERAL CATEGORIES (EG FORKLIFTS) ARE REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY. PRIVATE FORWARDING AGENTS ARE RELUCTANT TO ORDER NEW EQUIPMENT UNTIL GOVERNMENT DESIGNS WITH RESPECT TO NEWLY FORMED STATE-FORWARDING COMPANY (SONATRAC) BECOME CLEAR. NATIONALIZATION IN OTHER TRADE AREAS RECENTLY HAVE PROMPTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THESE CONCERNS BY FORWARDING AGENTS.

3. WFP REPRESENTATIVE INTENDS TO CALL PORT COMMITTEE MEETING EARLY JANUARY DURING WHICH NEED FOR ADDITIONAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT WILL BE STRESSED. HE WILL REPORT PLANS THIS AREA TO OSRO SO LATTER CAN ADVISE DONORS ON RECOMMENDED LEVELS OF SHIPMENT THROUGH COTONOU PORT.
DECONTROL JUNE 16, 1975. RAWLS

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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